



Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Marine Fisheries
3 Ft. Wetherill Road
Jamestown, RI 02835

401 423-1920
FAX 401 423-1925
TDD 401 222-4462

May 31, 2012

Steven Hall, Chief
Division of Law enforcement
235 promenade Street
Providence, Rhode island 02908

Re: Prosecutorial Discretion Relative to Enforcement of Annual Lobster
Tagging requirements imposed by RIMFR §15.14.1-8

Dear Chief Hall:

It is my understanding that the sole source provider of lobster trap tags, the Stoffel seals Corporation, has recently experienced a substantial mechanical failure that has prevented Stoffel from providing in a timely manner the 2012 lobster trap tags that are regulatorily required to be posted on all deployed traps on or before June 1, 2012. Given that a number of lobster harvesters submitted timely application for the required traps, I would respectfully suggest that you instruct the staff of the Division of Law Enforcement to exercise prosecutorial discretion and elect not to issue any citations for alleged violations RIMFR §15.14.1-8 until June 30, 2012 if the alleged violation arises solely on the basis that the lobster traps display tags issued for the year 2011 rather than 2012.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry Mouradjian
Associate Director